

Public Notice

Issue Date:

Public Meeting

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
Mississippi River Mainline Levees Enlargement and Seepage Control Project,
Wildlife Mitigation Lands

Time: Thursday, August 21, 2003, 6 pm

Place: City Hall, 105 East Center St., Sikeston MO

Description of Project Background:

Within the area of Missouri from Commerce, downstream to the Missouri-Arkansas state line, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District (Corps) is responsible for construction and maintenance of levees associated with the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project. In 1998, under provisions of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement specific to levee enlargement and seepage control for the Mississippi River Mainline Levees (MRL) the Corps committed to offset impacts to wetland, terrestrial, and waterfowl resources. This mitigation commitment is an undertaking (and legal authority) separate from, and not linked to, the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project. In Missouri, MRL-related mitigation will be accomplished by obtaining and reforesting approximately 550 acres of frequently flooded agricultural lands. Subject to Federal appropriations, the Corps will support operation and maintenance of these restored bottomland hardwood tracts. An attempt will be made to purchase lands (willing sellers only) in the vicinity of the levee system, although more distant parcels may be considered, and other methods of acquisition would be possible. Key public agencies besides the Corps will be consulted, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Not only will these agencies be coordinated with, such agencies also are invited to propose management programs, supported by Federal funding (as noted above) for the mitigation land. The Corps will select such a managing agency after considering cost proposals, proximity of tract(s) to existing holdings of the agency (such as wildlife refuges) and other factors.

Public Input Opportunity:

Corps staff and various public agencies' representatives are in the initial stages of seeking to identify potential tract(s) of land for this mitigation effort. While more detailed evaluation and other actions will follow, you are invited to visit with Corps and other public agency staff to aid us in identifying tract(s) of land that may be suitable for this commitment to obtain, restore, and manage 550 acres of land. A brief presentation will be made from approximately 600 pm until 630 pm, and that will be followed by an

informal questions and answers session, and/or other discussions. If interested persons cannot attend this meeting, but wish to offer comments or questions otherwise, please contact Erwin Roemer as listed below.

For information contact:

Erwin Roemer
Environmental Analysis Branch
USACE, Memphis District
167 N. Main
Memphis, Tennessee 38013-1894
telephone 800-317-4156 ext. 0704 or commercial (901) 544-0704
telefax (901) 544-3955
email Erwin.J. Roemer@usace.army.mil